

Three Rivers Library System Board Meeting
February 5, 2016 – 1:00 pm
North Bend Public Library
Minutes

Members Present: Kathy Ageton, Rose Barcal, Francine Canfield, Laura England-Biggs, Beth Foulks,
Excused: Lauran Lofgren, Aimee Morlan.

Staff Present: TRLS – Anneka Ramirez, NLC – Rod Wagner.

Approval of Agenda:

President Francine Canfield opened the meeting at 1:00 PM. She noted that Lauran Lofgren and Aimee Morlan were excused from the meeting.

Laura England-Biggs moved approval of the agenda; Rose Barcal seconded. Carried unanimously.

Minutes:

Kathy Ageton motioned approval of the minutes, Rose Barcal seconded. Carried unanimously.

Financial Report:

Anneka Ramirez reviewed the monthly reports for December and January as well as the six-month expense report.

In December, there were overnight stays in Wayne and Carrol totaling \$103.49. Quickbooks update cost \$374.46 while the insurance (worker's comp and business key policy for 2016) was \$999. November and December payroll were both shown under December, which is why that line is larger than expected.

January shows no receipts although the third quarter payment from the NLC has been requested.

Both months included updates to the Tech Collection (updated e-readers and tablets for OverDrive classes). In January, we added maker kits in addition to updating e-readers.

On the six-month report, Anneka noted that the office assistant was hired without benefits, saving \$2,000 from the budgeted amount. We also paid additional fees to the accountant for the Northeast Library System financial statements which is why that line is over the budgeted amount. Both staff members are using personal cell phones and not a system phone, so that line is also untouched.

All in all, we are under budget at this time.

Director's Report:

Ms. Ramirez reviewed her report for the quarter, noting that most of her contacts were by phone and email and therefore only 12 in-person visits took place. (For example, Anneka used the NLC GoToMeeting software to help troubleshoot a Follett question at a member library.)

Anneka noted that there are still 25 member libraries left for her to visit in person across the system.

The December Summer Reading webinar was well attended with 37 at its highest number. Librarians from Elgin, Springfield, Hartfield and Springfield won the Visa gift card drawing. The video is now up on YouTube – can be found by visiting the TRLS website and looking for the December blog entries

(<http://libraries.ne.gov/trls/2015/12/>) or going to <https://youtu.be/zkJK3uBPHRo>

Strategic Planning workshop at Battle Creek was attended by 7 people.

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Maker Kits are listed on the Libib site and are available in five categories (Robotics, Circuitry, Creative Writing, Programming and Engineering).

We are talking with Eakes about replacing/recycling the unused copier and upgrading the existing copier in the office. There may be the possibility to take part in state contract pricing.

Anneka came up with a Board Calendar for 2016, showing Board, System and State deadlines for various projects and meetings. All agreed that it will be helpful.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Nominating Committee:

Lauran, Beth and Anneka met and were able to secure three names of individuals who agreed to be put forward for board elections. In February and March we will open the call for nominations with the nominating period being March 1 – 14. The Board will approve the slate in May and the members will vote in June. July 1, we will inform the new members and they will begin their terms with the Annual Meeting in August.

OLD BUSINESS

SPC (System Peer Coordinator) Update: To date, Anneka has received one application from Boone County. We had hoped to receive multiple applicants for each area. After discussion, the group agreed that Anneka would put more information in the Newsletter and do additional networking. We may consider a one-county trial run to illustrate the value to member libraries, roll out with evidence to support the model.

NEW BUSINESS

Amendment to By-laws: Proposed amendment would have required Board representation from the four identified SPC areas. After reviewing the by-laws (see Section 5.3 below), the group concluded that the spirit of the document already assures good faith efforts for representation from across the service area.

“SECTION 5.3: SYSTEM BOARD MEMBERS

Every reasonable effort shall be made by the System to see that the Board members represent the full diversity of library service interests within the System area. Balanced representation from all geographical parts of the System area must be evident in the composition of the Board.”

Successes and Challenges:

The group went around the table and shared one success, one challenge from the past few months.

Kathy Ageton: Challenge: A student committed suicide in early February, which has affected everyone greatly.

Success: Kathy ordered three Christian adult coloring books which feature psalms, blessings and other comforting sayings and left them out for the students to use at their discretion. They have proved very

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therapeutic for students across age and gender boundaries. One book is gone and the other two have been significantly used.

Beth Foulks: Success: Hosted a fundraiser as a spelling bee with a twist – participants could buy “stingers” or “pay to stay” after missing their word. They got five teams and had wonderful audience participation, raising \$1,000 for the lighting project.

Anneka Ramirez: Challenge: Not getting the response we wanted for the SPC

Success: The SRP Webinar online was a great success for this time period

Laura England-Biggs: Success: Hiring a new library director who started January 4

Challenge: That library director resigned February 4, and Laura is now interim director again

Francine Canfield: Success: The Adult Coloring Club on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month had one attendee the first week, four the next.

Challenge: Twofold. The son of the superintendent committed suicide which has hit the community hard. Also had an incident where an F-150 truck ran into the library building. Luckily, contractors are not busy and Francine has not had a difficult time obtaining bids for a Springtime repair.

Rose Barcal: Challenge: Rose is getting an education in being sued in her role as President of the Condo Association Board at MCC/LaVista. It stems from a 2013 accident which has already seen one failed lawsuit.

Success: A joint program with Metro during finals week to set up a Brain Break Room with coloring books, Legos, music and popcorn.

NLC Report: Monday Feb 8 is the hearing on LB969 (which would affect most remaining library boards in the state of Nebraska). The NLA Advocacy committee (chaired by Steve Fosselman) is doing a great job working with NLA President Julee Hector and lobbyist Andy Pollock who are speaking with senators in hopes of keeping the bill from advancing out of committee.

The Annual Federal Report was submitted on time.

Tuesday a preliminary proposal for an LSTA Leadership project is due, placing equipment for several months in libraries around the state. It's a cooperative program between the NLC, regional library systems, Innovation Studio at UNL and the Nebraska Extension offices. In mid-March we should hear if the program will be invited to submit a full proposal which would be due in June.

Big Talk from Small Libraries is set for February 26 and has a good slate of presenters.

Next week the Commission staff will review applications for library improvement grants and announce on February 17. Library Internship grants will be announced next week.

The Commission has appointed a new Continuing Education director who will be announced next week.

Advocacy Day will be March 8, and will include an afternoon program at the Nebraska Innovation campus.

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Another issue to watch is the Property Tax Lid, which is a bill sponsored by the governor. This would cap ag land value and reduce the percentage of tax lid from 5.5% to 3.5%.

With nothing further to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 2:13 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura England-Biggs, Secretary